

Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication



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Very concerned to hear about Engineer Rashid having to be shifted to hospital. It is imperative that authorities take proper care & ensure that his condition does not deteriorate while the court arrives at a considered decision on his bail plea.

Srinagar • Saturday 08, February 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 34 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

5 Terrorists Killed In Blast Near LoC



AGENCIES

JAMMU: Five Pakistani terrorists were killed on Friday in a landmine blast near the Line of Control (LoC) while trying to infiltrate into Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Poonch district.

Official sources said that the five Pakistani militants were killed in the landmine explosion while attempting to infiltrate across the LoC in Battal sector of landmine.

They said that the Pakistani terrorists were attempting to infiltrate into Indian territory when one of them stepped onto a landmine.

"One of them stepped on a landmine, triggering a huge explosion that killed all five terrorists. They were also carrying an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) with them, which also exploded, adding to the damage," sources said.

The LoC area has been fitted with landmines by the

Indian Army to prevent infiltration by the terrorists.

In addition to night vision devices, electronic surveillance and human preparedness, the landmines are an important part of the anti-infiltration mechanism in J&K.

Usually the area close to the LoC is called 'no man's land' thereby signalling that nobody should tread on this land.

Security forces and the Indian Army have heightened vigil along the LoC and the hinterland in J&K as very less snowfall this season so far has left all mountain routes used by the terrorists open in the UT.

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah chaired a high level security meeting on J&K recently.

The Home Minister advised security forces to ensure 'zero infiltration' and 'zero tolerance' to terrorists.

The meeting was held in the backdrop of the recent murder of an ex-**●P-06**

Govt Directs Officers To Accord Priority, Protocol To MLAs



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government has instructed all departments and officers to prioritise attending to elected representatives, ensuring proper protocol and cooperation in all official matters.

In a circular, the government has directed officers

and all departments that communications, requests, and grievances raised by elected representatives shall be acknowledged and processed in priority.

It further stated officers and officials shall deal with elected representatives in a professional and respectful manner.

The circular added that

MLAs be invited to all official functions and meetings organised in their respective jurisdictions, including official visit of any dignitary.

The government urged strict compliance with these instructions to strengthen coordination between administration and elected representatives for effective governance—(KNO)

IN A CIRCULAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTED OFFICERS AND ALL departments that communications, requests, and grievances raised by elected representatives shall be acknowledged and processed in priority.

CRPF Chief Reviews Situation At LoC



AGENCIES

RAJOURI: CRPF Director General GP Singh reviewed the security situation and the force's operational preparedness during a recent two-day visit to the forward areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Friday.

Singh also met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday and briefed him about the force's preparedness for counter-terrorism operations and managing law-and-order situations.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) chief visited the Kalakote, Kopratop, and the Thanamandi camps in the border district during his two-day visit, the officials said.

He reviewed the overall security situation, apart from the troops' operational preparedness, they added.

Singh interacted with personnel at the new Kopra Counter Insurgency camp, **●P-06**

Mirwaiz To Get Security Cover Post Delhi Visit



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police is considering to restore the security cover for Mirwaiz Umar Farooq following his recent engagements in New Delhi, including discussions with the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, meeting with prominent civil society members and religious leaders including AIMUM Chief Asad ud Din Owasi, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind president Maulana Mehmood

Madni, Delhi Jama Masjid Shahi Imam Syed Ahmad Bukhari, Ameer of the Tablighi Jamaat Maulana Saad Kandhalvi, and Mufti Mukarram Ahmed of the Fatehpuri Masjid and an outreach to migrant Kashmiri Pandits.

According to official sources, Mirwaiz's two-week visit to Delhi sparked speculations from various quarters raising concerns about his security.

Authorities have taken note of online threats directed at him after these interactions, particularly **●P-06**

LG Sinha Asks NBT To Hold Annual Book Festivals In J&K

Visits National Book Trust's World Book Fair At New Delhi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Stating that a The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that a book is the best companion, which offers new ideas and perspectives in our life journey and also serves as the best medium for thinkers, scientists and spiritualists to preserve and carry forward the wealth of knowledge for the benefit of future generations.

Sinha made these remarks following his visit to New Delhi World Book Fair 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

He commended the endeavour of National Book Trust, India, under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for providing an engaging platform



to book lovers, publishers and authors. He has also asked the National Book Trust to regularly

organise annual book festivals in Jammu and Srinagar.

"World Book Fair is **●P-06**

Delhi HC Reserves Verdict On Er Rashid's Bail



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday reserved its verdict on a plea filed by Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid seeking interim bail, or alternatively, custody parole, to attend the ongoing Parliament session.

Engineer Rashid, who won the Lok Sabha election from J&K's Baramulla constituency by defeating National Conference (NC) Vice President and now Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah by over two lakh votes while he remained lodged in Tihar

Jail, is accused in a terror funding case being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

A bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan reserved its decision after hearing the oral arguments advanced by the counsel representing the federal anti-terror agency and Engineer Rashid's lawyer.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing on NIA's behalf, argued that there are security issues and custody parole is not a vested right of a legislator.

"He (Rashid) is an elected Member of Parliament. **●P-06**

GI Registry Assigns New Logo To Kashmir Carpet



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major step aimed at safeguarding the genuineness of Kashmir Crafts and brand promotion, the Geographical Registry, Chennai, has assigned a new logo for the famed Kashmir Hand-Knotted Carpet under its Geographical Indication procedures.

GI logo is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

In a press release issued here Friday, Director Indian Institute of Carpet Tech-

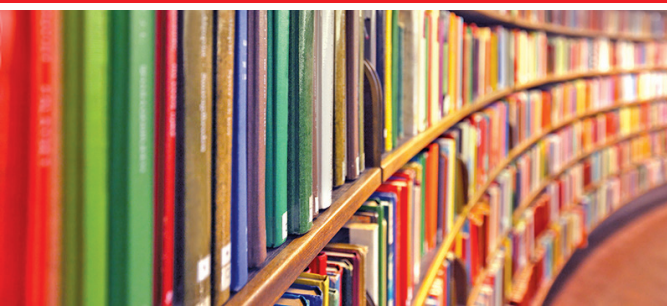
nology (IICT), Nowshera, Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad, stated that a fresh registration certificate with new logo has been issued by the Registrar of Geographical Indications, which is the competent authority for assigning such benchmarks.

"The new logo will be given wide publicity so that exclusivity of hand-knotted Kashmir carpet is secured and buyers handed satisfaction of purchasing genuine hand-made Kashmir carpets," he added.

Kashmir crafts, which have the reputation for being amongst the very **●P-06**

50% Libraries Without Books In J&K Govt Schools

Private Schools Offer Facility In 73% Institutes



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, more than 50 percent of those government-run schools having library set-up have no textbooks available for the students and teachers.

The official figures reveal that only 49.78 percent government schools were having books available in the libraries across Jammu and Kashmir. Figures also disclose that 50.22 percent government schools have no books available in the institute libraries.

The figures further reveal that in private schools of Jammu and Kashmir only 73.73 percent institutes were having the library with books facility for the students while 26.27 percent libraries were without books.

The official figures however reveal that there was 100 percent book facility available in the government aided schools.

Pertinent to mention that more than 98 percent of educational institutes in Jammu and Kashmir san digital library services and among **●P-06**

...Pre-Budget Consultations

CM Omar Chairs Meetings With Various Stakeholders

Discusses Pulwama, Reasi Budget Plans With Public Representatives



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Continuing with the pre-budget consultations for the third consecutive day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah engaged in extensive discussions with public representatives and key stakeholders to gain firsthand insights into the issues and developmental priorities of various sectors and districts.

The meeting was attend-

ed by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of Finance, Social Welfare, Tourism, Industry & Commerce, Youth Services & Sports, Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Reasi districts, and heads of various departments, both in person and virtually. **●P-06**

Reviews Half Marathon, Ultra Marathon Preps

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday chaired a review meeting to discuss the preparations for the Jammu Half Marathon & Ultra Marathon 2025, scheduled to be held later this year.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Satosh D. Vaidya, Divisional **●P-06**

Sugamya Yatra 2025 successfully conducted across J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sugamya Yatra 2025, a landmark initiative to promote accessibility and inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), was successfully held Friday across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of thousands of men, women and children, both with and without disabilities, demonstrating a collective commitment towards building an accessible and inclusive society.

The Yatra was spearheaded by the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with all District Level Committees on Disability, headed by respective Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and actively supported by the District Social Welfare Units.

The primary objective of Sugamya Yatra 2025 was to raise mass awareness about accessibility challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities and to sensitize stakeholders about their responsibilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

The Yatra focused on sensitising the public and authorities about accessibility rights and obligations, visiting key public places,

including government offices, educational institutions, healthcare centers and tourist spots to assess accessibility, encouraging use of digital tools like the Yes to Access mobile app for real-time data collection and promoting a constructive and collaborative approach towards improving accessibility.

The event was conducted in a peaceful and inclusive manner, ensuring constructive engagement with local authorities and stakeholders. The participants were encouraged to provide feedback to concerned officials to foster improvements in accessibility across public infrastructure.

The Deputy Commissioners across all districts played a crucial role in coordinating the Yatra, ensuring its smooth execution and mobilising stakeholders, including representatives from the disability sector, civil society organisations and accessibility auditors.

Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Iqbal Lone, while talking with the media, said that successful execution of Sugamya Yatra 2025 marks a significant step towards realising the vision of an inclusive and accessible Jammu & Kashmir, in alignment with national and international commitments on disability rights.

DDC G'bal reviews progress under District Capex

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Friday chaired a high-level meeting to assess the physical and financial progress made under the District Capex Budget 2024-25 here in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

During the meeting, the Chief Planning Officer briefed the DDC on the status of developmental works and financial utilization. He informed that out of a total 1,635 works, 1,574 have been tendered, and 1,491 have been allotted so far.

The DDC conducted a department-wise review, covering Rural Development, Health, Education,

R&B, Power Development, Jal Shakti, and Agriculture and allied sectors.

He directed the officers to ensure optimal utilization of funds and complete all approved projects within the stipulated time frame.

He further emphasized the importance of accelerating the pace of ongoing works to prevent any funds from being surrendered.

The executing agencies were instructed to meet both physical and financial targets while maintaining quality standards.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, ACP, Executive Engineers from R&B, REW, Jal Shakti, I&FC, BDOs, and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Shopian launches Sugamya yatra, emphasised on empowering the PwDs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Friday convened a meeting of officers to discuss the accessibility issues related to specially able persons and remedial measures as guaranteed under the RPwD Act.

The DC reviewed accessibility amenities available in public office and directed concerned officers for inclusivity of PwDs and other vulnerable sections of society.

While speaking on the occasion of commemoration of the International Day of persons with disabilities he emphasized on the need for concerted efforts for inclusive and sustain-

able future for them. DC stressed for the creation of a more focused approach towards PwDs and other vulnerable sections of society.

The event featured an awareness of government welfare schemes aimed at providing support for livelihood generation, skill development and financial assistance to persons with disabilities. Participants from the specially-abled community also shared their success stories, inspiring others with their achievements.

These initiatives reflect commitment to raise awareness about the challenges faced by persons with disabilities and promoting inclusivity within the community.

Satish Sharma participates in Guru Ravi Das Jayanti

Reaffirms govt's commitment in resolving people's grievances

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, Friday conducted an extensive tour of Khour and addressed a mammoth gathering there.

The event witnessed a significant turnout of people from various walks of life, highlighting issues ranging from infrastructure development to basic amenities.

Satish Sharma attentively heard the concerns of the attendees and assured them that the issues and concerns raised by them would be taken up with the concerned authorities and addressed promptly.

While addressing the people, the Minister said that he will work with utmost zeal and vigour to bring enhanced development and prosperity in the region. He sought public cooperation in realising the set development targets.

While emphasising the unwavering commitment of the government towards addressing the pressing issues faced by the common

people, the Minister said under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, we are dedicated to deliver effective governance and ensuring that public grievances are addressed on priority.

The Minister asked the officers of the line departments to put in their sincere efforts in rendering prompt services to the people. He instructed them to work in syn-

ergy so that people don't face any kind of inconvenience.

Earlier, Satish Sharma participated in Shobha yatra at Akhnour organised in connection with 684th Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru Ravi Das's Jayanti.

The Minister, on the occasion, prayed for peace and prosperity for mankind and Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

Phone No:- 0191-2546697 (J) 0194-2493309 (S) Website: jksmg.gov.in  Fax: 0191-2565105(J) 0194-2490473(S) E-mail: dtrsmg@gmail.com GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Directorate of State Motor Garages Department <i>Bemina Bypass Srinagar / New Plot Jammu</i>						
ABRIDGED e-AUCTION NOTICE						
It is notified for the information of the General Public / Interested Bidders that the State Motor Garages Department is going to conduct a Forward Auction on the GeM Portal (e-Auction) of the following Condemned Vehicles / Un-serviceable Stores of various Government Departments vide Auction ID No. 18459 w.e.f. 28-02-2025 (10:00:00) to 01-03-2025 (12:00:00):-						
S. No.	Lot No.	Name of the Department	Vehicle No.	Make	Model	Location of Vehicle
1	01	State Motor Garages Department (<i>Kashmir Division</i>)	JK01M 0457	Tavera	2008	State Motor Garages Bemina Srinagar
2	02	Principal Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Baramulla	JK05A 6567	Tata Sumo	2007	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Shubkote Baramulla
3	03	Director Floriculture Gardens & Parks Kashmir	JK02AE 5032	Tata 407	2007	Polo Ground Park Srinagar
4	04	Secretary J&K Board of Technical Education	JK02V 0617	Maruti Van	2004	Govt. Polytechnic College Gogji Bagh Srinagar
5	05	Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir	JK01M 2375	Swaraj Mazda	2008	University of Kashmir South Campus Fatehgarh Anantnag
6			JK01K 5960	Swaraj Mazda	2007	
7			JK01H 9781	Tata Bus	2004	
8			JK01H 9782	Tata Bus	2004	
9			JK01M 4219	Bolero	2008	
10			JK02AJ 0924	Ambassador	2008	University of Kashmir Zainul Abadin Gate Hazratbal Srinagar
11			JK01M 7067	Ambassador	2009	
12			JK01M 5012	Tata Winger	2009	
13			JK01M 4442	Bolero	2009	
14			JK01M 4182	Ambassador	2008	
15	06	Deputy Director Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine Srinagar	JK01M 4466	Tavera	2008	Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine Naseem Bagh Campus Hazratbal Srinagar
16			JK01M 9973	Mahindra Maxx	2009	
17			JK01C 6944	Tata Bus	1997	
18			JK01M 0497	Gypsy	2008	
19			DL9CQ 6490	Bolero	2008	
20			JK01D 6588	Bajaj Tempo	1999	
21	07	Chief Executive Officer Lolab Bangus Drangyari Development Authority	JK09 7610	Bolero	2011	CEO Lolab Bangus Drangyari Development Authority Kupwara
22	08	Director Youth Services & Sports J&K	JK04A 8850	Maruti Van	2008	District Youth Services & Sports Budgam
23			JK04 2143	Tata 407	1998	
24			JK13A 6158	Maruti Van	2008	
25	09	Principal Government College of Physical Education Ganderbal	JK01J 7406	Maruti Omni	2005	Government College of Physical Education Ganderbal
26	10	Principal Government Medical College Srinagar	JK01N 2561	Tata LP Bus	2009	GMC Boys Hostel Bemina Srinagar
27			JK01M 0498	Ambassador	2008	Govt. Medical College Karanagar Srinagar
28			JK01S 1375	Ambassador	2012	
29			JK01K 1936	Ambassador	2006	
30			JK01M 0499	Omni Van	2008	
31			JK01L 9193	Ambassador	2008	
32			JK01L 5838	Ambassador	2007	
33			JK01M 6434	Tata Bus	2008	
34			JK01M 6433	Tata Bus	2008	
35			JK01M 4738	Tata Winger	2008	
36	11	Principal SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina Srinagar	JK01M 4737	Tata 407	2008	SKIMS Medical College JVC Bemina Srinagar
37			JK01M 3971	Tata Ambulance 407	2008	
38			JK01L 5837	Tata Ambulance 407	2007	
39	12	Registrar General High Court of J&K and Ladakh	JK01M 4911	Toyota Corolla	2009	State Motor Garages Bemina Srinagar
40			JK02AF 1003	Toyota Corolla	2007	
41			JK02AF 1004	Toyota Corolla	2007	
42			JK02AF 1006	Toyota Corolla	2007	
43			JK01B 3175	Ambassador	1995	
44			JK02AC 7305	Ambassador	2006	
45			JK01J 6006	Maruti Esteem	2005	
46			JK02W 1930	Gypsy	2004	
47			JK09 0656	Ambassador	2000	
48			JK02AC 7307	Ambassador	2006	
49	13	Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir	JK01B 4044	Ambassador	1995	State Motor Garages Bemina Srinagar
50			JK01C 7842	Gypsy	1997	
51			JK01G 8249	Ambassador	2003	
52	14	Director Social Welfare Kashmir	JKE 8413	Jeep	1986	State Motor Garages Bemina Srinagar
53			JKE 2082	Jeep	1985	
54	15	Director ICAR Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture Srinagar	JK04A 9747	Swaraj Mazda	2008	ICAR Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture Airfield Rangreth Srinagar
55			JK04B 0252	Scorpio	2009	
56	16	Director Ayush J&K	JK02AG 5140	Gypsy	2007	District Ayush Office Budgam
57	17	Managing Director J&K SC ST BC Development Corporation	JK02H 3651	Ambassador	1996	Divisional Manager J&K SC ST BC Development Corporation Exchange
58	18	Chief Wildlife Warden J&K	JK01P 1850	Scorpio	2010	Department of Wildlife Protection New Theed Dachigam Srinagar
59	19	Chief Executive Officer Wullar Manasbal Development Authority	JK01K 9822	Scorpio	2007	Wullar Manasbal Development Authority Manasbal Bandipora
60	20	Director Geology and Mining Department J&K	JK02AE 3761	Ambassador	2007	Geology and Mining Department Workshop Ompora Budgam
61			JK01M 7881	Tata Truck	2008	
62			JK01H 5316	Mahindra Marshal	2004	
63	21	Chief Executive Officer Livestock Development Board Kashmir	JK01M 5988	Tata Mobile 207	2009	CEO Livestock Development Board Shalteng Srinagar
64			JK01M 5957	Tata Mobile 207	2009	
65			JK01C 6123	Omni Van	1997	
66			JK02G 7400	Gypsy	1997	
67			JK01G 1353	Toyota Qualis	2003	
68			JK01D 5144	Bajaj Auto (Three Wheeler)	1997	Fish Seed Farm Manasbal Bandipora
69			JK02Q 5071	Bolero	2001	
70			JK01E 1860	Tata Sumo	2000	
71			JK01 8017	Bajaj Auto (Three Wheeler)	1991	
72			JK03B 4552	Sumo Victa	2009	
73	22	Director Fisheries J&K	JKD 7608	Jeep	1986	Office of the Assistant Director Fisheries Budgam
74			JK01N 0288	Gypsy	2009	
75			JK01N 0289	Omni Van	2009	
76			JK01N 0374	Tata 407	2009	
77			JK01W 0601	Bolero	2014	
78	25	Director Accounts and Treasuries Kashmir Principal Govt. Dental College and Hospital Srinagar	JK01M 6469	Tata LP 407 Bus	2008	Sadder Treasury Residency Road Srinagar Govt. Dental College & Hospital Shireen Bagh Srinagar

79	26	Financial Commissioner (Revenue) J&K	JKB 7413	Royal Enfield	1979	Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Office Tankipora Srinagar
80			JK01H 8467	Yamaha Libero	2004	
81			JK04B 1485	Gypsy	2009	Tehsil Office Budgam
82			JK05 1492	Gypsy	1997	Tehsil Office Pattan
83			JK05 1419	Jeep	1997	Irrigation Colony Sumbal Sonwari Bandipora
84			JK01C 8453	Gypsy	1997	Tehsil Office Dooru
85			JK02K 3404	Gypsy	1998	Tehsil Office Pahalgam
86			JK01M 8858	Gypsy	2008	Tehsil Office DH Pora Kulgam
87			JK03 2679	Gypsy	1998	Tehsil Office Kulgam
88			JK04C 6682	Gypsy	2012	Tehsil Office Charar i Sharief
89	27	Indian Red Cross Society J&K	JK03 1896	Gypsy	1997	Red Cross Society Exchange Road Kothi Bagh Srinagar
90			JK01N 9720	Gypsy	2009	
91			JK02AK 7280	Gypsy	1998	
92			JK05 2326	Gypsy	1997	
93			JK01 0868	Jeep	1989	
94			JK01D 7403	Maruti Van	1999	
95			JK01C 8098	Tata Mini Bus	1999	
96			JK02D 5542	Gypsy	1993	
97			JK01K 5225	Tata Goods Carrier	2007	
98			JK01T 2650	Maruti Eeco	2012	
99	27	Indian Red Cross Society J&K	JK01K 1607	Bolero	2006	Red Cross Society Exchange Road Kothi Bagh Srinagar
100			JK01J 5023	Bolero	2005	
101			JK01E 9474	Bolero	2001	
102			JK01B 3184	Gypsy	1993	
103			JK01B 3188	Gypsy	1993	
104			JKB 6620	Standard Matador	NA	
105			JK01D 8247	Ambulance 407	1999	
106			JK03A 1001	Gypsy	2004	
107						
108						

Un-Serviceable Stores					
S. No.	Lot No.	Name of the Department	Nomenclature	Quantity	Location of Material
1	28	State Motor Garages Department (<i>Kashmir Division</i>)	Batteries Assorted	169 Nos.	State Motor Garages Bemina Srinagar.
2	29		Tubes Assorted	15 Nos.	
3	30	Principal Govt. Dental College & Hospital Srinagar	Batteries Assorted	12 Nos.	Principal Govt. Dental College & Hospital Srinagar
4	31	State Motor Garages Department (<i>Jammu Division</i>)	Used Oil	2721 Litres	State Motor Garages New Plot Jammu
5	32		Batteries Assorted	213 Nos.	
6	33		Tyres Assorted	834 Nos.	
7	34		Tubes Assorted	28 Nos.	
8	35		Metal Scrap Assorted	...	
9	36		Rubber & Plastic Assorted	...	
10	37				

The interested bidders shall have to deposit an amount of ₹ 100000/= (Rupees One Lac Only) in the shape of CDR / FDR only pledged to the Deputy Director, State Motor Garages Department Kashmir as a security deposit w.e.f. 10-02-2025 (10:00:00) to 20-02-2025 (16:00:00) and submit the same in original to the Directorate of State Motor Garages Department J&K Srinagar / Jammu before participating in the Auction proceedings.

The detailed terms and conditions are available on GeM Portal with Auction ID No. 18459.

DIPK-11671-24
DT:07/02/2025

(P. K. Bhat)
Accounts Officer
State Motor Garages Department
J&K, Jammu/Srinagar

No:- RCD-5/ 70

Div Com reviews preparations for 5th Khelo India winter games

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bihduri on Friday convened a meeting of officers to review overall preparation for the successful conduct of 5th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) to be held at Gulmarg later this month. The mega event of national winter games phase 2nd of KIWG shall commence at winter wonderland Gulmarg from February 22 and shall conclude on February 25. Over one thousand athletes, coaches & officials will participate in the event of national importance.

Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Director Urban Local Bodies, MD JKTD, Director Health Services Kashmir, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority, SSP Budgam, SSP Baramulla, SSP Traffic, Secretary J&K Sports Council, officers from various departments including SMC, PHE, KPDC, R&B, MED, Transport, Airport Authority, Cable Car Corporation, Information, Tourism, H&H, NHIDCL,



SDRF, CISE, HAWS and other essential departments attended the meeting.

While chairing the meeting, Div Com reviewed multitude of arrangements & preparations including arrival of participants at Srinagar Airport, transportation of participants, accommodation facilities, essential services including electricity, drinking water, sanitation, Mobile Network, critical health services besides effective coordination among all

departments.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com emphasized on close coordination & synergy among all the departments and the appointment of Nodal Officers for different roles, assignments and departments.

He instructed effective communication among the stakeholders departments & dissemination of relevant information & directed for strengthening of interdepartmental coordination.

Earlier, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull presented a detailed Power Point Presentation to inform the meeting regarding comprehensive strategy for successful conduct of KIWG. PPT encompassed all the aspects & nitty-gritty of event including number of participants, officials, supporting staff, sports events, cultural events, accommodation, transportation, promotional activities and other aspects of the game.

Dy CM inaugurates ARTO Camp Office at Nowshera



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant step towards improving transport-related services in border areas, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Friday inaugurated the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Camp Office at Nowshera.

The initiative aims to provide doorstep services to the people of Nowshera and Sunderbani, who previously had to travel over 80 km to Rajouri for essential transport services.

To ensure efficient service delivery, the newly established camp office will conduct vehicle inspections on every Monday besides Driving trial tests on every Saturday.

This move is expected to greatly benefit the residents, particularly those living near the Line of Control (LoC), by saving

time, effort and travel expenses. The public has widely appreciated this initiative, hailing it as a landmark decision by the government to enhance accessibility to transport services in remote areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Dy CM emphasized the government's commitment towards decentralizing essential services for welfare of the people. He highlighted that the ARTO Camp Office at Nowshera is a step towards ensuring ease of access to transport-related facilities, reducing hardships faced by the local population.

Local residents and representatives expressed their gratitude to the administration for this much-needed facility, which will streamline licensing and vehicle registration services while enhancing road safety compliance in the region.

Satish Sharma declares open "Inter-School Badminton Tournament"



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma Friday declared open the Inter-School Badminton Tournament at IDPS Jammu held under the patronage of Jammu Sahodaya Schools Complex.

Players from 20 CBSE schools of the region are participating in the two day event.

Satish Sharma also inaugurated the IDPS Combat Academy for Martial Arts and Splash Pool for primary wing, marking a significant milestone in the school's commitment towards fostering health, fitness and wellness among the students.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister extended his best wishes to the participating team from dif-

ferent schools. He asserted that this event is not only a celebration of talent, sportsmanship and dedication, but also the spirit of unity and camaraderie that sports foster among young minds.

The Minister, during his address, encouraged all the participants to play with enthusiasm and sportsmanship and not only strive for victory but also celebrate the spirit of healthy competition and mutual respect.

Satish Sharma emphasized the importance of sports in shaping young leaders and maintaining a balanced education. He said that sports has the power to unite and inspire. He also praised the school's contributions towards educational landscape of J&K acknowledging its role in nurturing many distinguished individuals over the years.

CS Culture reviews functioning of SRS Library Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Culture, K Ramesh Kumar, during his maiden visit to Shri Ranbir Singh (SRS) Library Kachi Chawni here, emphasized upon enhancement of operations and provision of efficient library services to the users.

Director Libraries & Research J&K; Deputy Director Libraries Jammu; Assistant Director Libraries Jammu and Chief Librarians, District Library Kathua and Doda besides other officials were present.

The Commissioner Secretary undertook an extensive tour of different sections of SRS Library and took stock of facilities being provided to the public. It was informed that SRS Library Jammu is the first and the premier public library of J&K founded in the year 1879. The library has a collection of nearly 80,000 books in various languages viz. English, Hindi, Urdu, Persian, Dogri and

Sanskrit thereby offering a diverse readership choice. With a Reading Room operational on all working days from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm and on Sundays from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, the library wit-



nesses a daily footfall of 100-150 visitors.

It was further informed that upgradation of SRS Library complex Jammu and provision of internet facility are the deliverables to be completed in 100 days. SRS Library Jammu is in the final stages of infrastructural/technical upgradation under Smart

City Project by the Jammu Municipal Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.94 Crore.

The project envisages raising the seating capacity to around 180, automation

ing suggestions from the users regarding further improvement in the functioning of libraries and reading rooms. He issued a slew of instructions for smooth functioning of SRS Library, better cleanliness and hygiene of the complex and provision of better facilities to users.

K Ramesh Kumar emphasised the need for concretised steps to maximise the outreach of the library services. He also urged the officers to take necessary steps for return of books from the borrowers. Steps were finalised for commencement of internet services in the libraries across J&K.

The Commissioner Secretary highlighted the need for bringing in certain transformative changes to attract the users towards libraries for cultivating reading habits.

During the interaction, the Commissioner Secretary deliberated upon the departmental issues and assured for their time bound redress.

JK Govt approves diversion of forest land for 29 Water Supply Schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Pursuant to clearance of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved diversion of more than 10 hectare of forest land for various Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in Doda and Udhampur districts.

The projects mostly pertained to water supply infrastructure projects related to Jal Jeevan Mission for augmentation of water supply schemes in the districts.

Additionally, clearance has been given for diversion of 1.23 hectare of forest land of Social Forestry Division Baramulla for Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri road.

After a high level meeting of Union Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav and JK Forest Minister Javed Rana held last week, MoEFCC moved promptly and expedited Phase-III clearance of the projects on 1st February and accordingly JK Forest Department has approved diversion of requisitioned forest land subject to compensatory afforestation.

It is pertinent to mention that Javed Ahmed Rana, had recently met Union Forest Minister in New Delhi and urged him to expedite the clearance of pending cases under the Forest Conservation Act related to Jal Jeevan Mission, awaiting Phase-III clearance at the regional office, so that water infrastructure projects in forested areas can be implemented without further delay. The Union Minister had acknowledged the concerns raised and assured



full cooperation from the central government.

To expedite completion of Jal Jeevan Mission that aims to provide tap water connection to every household, six projects that have been cleared included Water Supply Schemes Chigla Balota, Chakal, Tikri, Kund, Charari besides improvement and augmentation of WSS Lalli.

The other schemes for which approval has been granted for use of forest land included WSS Mand, Kaghote, Jadsarkote, Krimchi, Deli Chak, Malhar, Katti and Demnote-Radnote in Udhampur Forest Division.

In Doda Forest Division, seven projects that gained clearance included WSSs Hanch Malna, Seel, Tantna, Aul Ugad, Mohalla, Jathali, and Jojote and three projects in Bhaderwah Forest Division including WSS Thalela, Southa and Puneja. The projects that have been cleared in Ramnagar Forest Division included WSS Balandh, Jandrari.

The Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA) 1980, a cru-

cial law to conserve forests and biodiversity in India, requires obtaining prior clearance from the central government for any project or activity that involves clearing forest land. The Act helps in striking a balance between development and environmental protection by ensuring sustainable use of forest resources.

To prevent ecological imbalance and ensure sustainable growth, the government has initiated Compensatory Afforestation (CA) efforts against the forest diversion proposals and more than 21 hectare of degraded forest land will be covered under CA.

Forest Minister, Javed Rana, while commenting on the development said that the government is committed to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections and the forest clearance is a step in that direction.

Emphasizing the importance of these projects in addressing the water needs of the twin districts and other areas, he said "the forest clearance for these

projects demonstrate our commitment towards fulfilling our objective of complete implementation of JJM in Jammu and Kashmir. We are dedicated to fostering growth in a way that benefits every section of society."

He directed the authorities to undertake aggressive compensatory afforestation to arrest any ecological imbalance, ensuring sustainable growth and infrastructure development.

The Minister highlighted that these projects had been carefully reviewed to ensure compliance with environmental norms, reflecting the government's balanced approach to development and conservation. He also commended the Forest Department and other concerned authorities for their proactive efforts in expediting the clearance process without compromising on environmental conservation.

Javed Rana further stressed the need for timely implementation of these projects and assured that the Jal Shakti Department will monitor their progress closely to avoid delays.

ACS reviews educational scenario of Kashmir division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu, Friday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the educational scenario of Kashmir division.

While reviewing the steps being taken, the ACS directed the CEOs and ZEOs to ensure that in the coming session, the respective heads in all schools of the valley take extra steps to impart moral education to the children. He said that when we talk about quality education, we should give special attention to the mother tongue along with imparting moral education to the children.

Shantmanu emphasized that the current time is an era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), so we cannot imagine quality education unless we provide education to children by adopting innovative methods and innovative tools.

The ACS also emphasized that we cannot enhance the personal development of children unless we remove learning gaps through a friendly environment in schools, enhance children's communication skills and strengthen their confidence.

Shantmanu directed the officers and school heads to adopt these suggestions at the ground level to see a new change in the education scenario.

Earlier, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Ito, while presenting the details of the current educational scenario in the valley, said that the department has prepared a roadmap for providing effective education to the children for the coming session.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education Kashmir, Chief Educational Officers of Kashmir Division and other concerned.

GI Registry assigns new logo to Kashmir carpet to preserve exclusivity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major step aimed at safeguarding the genuineness of Kashmir Crafts and brand promotion, the Geographical Registry, Chennai, has assigned a new logo for the famed Kashmir Hand-Knotted Carpet under its Geographical Indication procedures.

GI logo is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

In a press release issued here today, Director Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Nowshera, Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad, stated that a fresh registration certificate with new logo has been issued by the

Registrar of Geographical Indications, which is the competent authority for assigning such benchmarks. "The new logo will be given wide publicity so that exclusivity of hand-knotted Kashmir carpet is secured and buyers handed satisfaction of purchasing genuine hand-made Kashmir carpets," he added.

Kashmir crafts, which have the reputation for being amongst the very best in niche global markets, are in pursuit of securing GI registration for all categories.

Apart from hand-knotted carpet, six other crafts have already been GI registered which include Papier Mache, Kashmir Pashmina, Kani, Sozni, Khatamband and Walnut Wood Carving.

Javed Rana reviews implementation of JJM in Budgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday reviewed the progress on works being executed under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Budgam during an online meeting held here in this regard.

Present in the meeting were Legislators, Ali Muhammad Dar, Shafi Ahmed Wani and Saif Ud Din Bhat besides other concerned.

Addressing the meeting, Javed Rana impressed upon all the officers of Jal Shakti Department to expedite the execution of works under JJM and work in unison for smooth implementation of the ambitious mission in Budgam.

The Minister reviewed the status of under construction Water Supply Schemes, DPRs, tendering, work allotments of all JJM works and stressed on speedy work completion of all ongoing JJM projects to ensure adequate potable drinking water supply to

all households.

He stressed upon the officers to gear up the execution of works without further delay so that the people are facilitated with the piped drinking water. He directed all concerned officials to address any bottlenecks promptly ensuring expeditious completion of ongoing projects.

Javed Rana directed the officials to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in consultation with local legislators. He said that being elected representatives of the area, MLAs have a mass reach and officials can take their help in ensuring that each eligible beneficiary is covered under the government schemes.

The Minister said that taking local MLAs into confidence while formulating and implementing the government schemes in the district provides feedback about the ground realities, enabling the government to formulate policies that effectively address the public needs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct the name in my driving license bearing no. JK15-2013-0007099 from GH Mohd Sofi to Ghulam Mohammad Sofi S/o Assadullah Sofi R/o Sonawari Bandipore J&K as per my aadhar card. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same ARTO Bandipore within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

**Ghulam Mohammad Sofi
S/o Assadullah Sofi
R/o Sonawari Bandipore J&K**

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Fake Faith Healers Prey On The Vulnerable To Fuel Their Greed

In a world where mental health struggles like depression and low self-esteem are on the rise, a new breed of predators has emerged, cloaked in the guise of saviors. These so-called faith healers, self-proclaimed messiahs, and charismatic charlatans are exploiting the vulnerable, turning their pain into profit. Behind the veil of spirituality lies a sinister reality: a rampant, unchecked industry of deceit, manipulation, and outright criminality.

For years, these fraudsters have operated with impunity, preying on individuals desperate for solace and healing. They promise miracles—cures for depression, confidence restored, and lives transformed—all for a price. But what they deliver is nothing short of exploitation, leaving their victims poorer, more broken, and often deeper in despair.

The tactics are as old as time, yet alarmingly effective. These thugs in holy garb use psychological manipulation, staged "miracles," and fear-mongering to convince their followers of their divine powers. They thrive in the shadows of desperation, where hope is scarce and trust is easily manipulated. And while their primary currency is cash, their crimes extend far beyond financial fraud. Many are implicated in cases of emotional abuse, sexual exploitation, and even human trafficking.

What makes this epidemic even more alarming is the complicity of society. Too often, these fraudsters are shielded by a culture that conflates skepticism with disrespect for faith. Victims, already burdened by shame and stigma, are reluctant to come forward, fearing judgment or retribution. Meanwhile, the lack of stringent regulations allows these predators to operate freely, often under the radar of law enforcement.

It's time to rip off the mask of these modern-day wolves in sheep's clothing. Governments must step up, enacting stricter laws to regulate and prosecute these fraudulent operators. Communities need to educate themselves, fostering critical thinking and awareness to protect the vulnerable. And most importantly, those suffering from mental health challenges must be directed toward legitimate, evidence-based support systems—not the empty promises of charlatans.

Faith can be a source of comfort and strength, but when it is weaponized for profit, it becomes a tool of oppression. Let us not allow these fake messiahs to continue their rampage unchecked. The true miracle lies in empowering individuals to seek help from trusted sources, free from the clutches of those who would exploit their pain for personal gain. Enough is enough. It's time to expose these thugs for what they truly are: not saviors, but scavengers, feeding on the suffering of others. The road to healing begins with truth, and the truth is this—no one should profit from another's despair.

Public Awareness And Early Diagnosis Key To Win Battle Against Cancer



DR. RAGHAV KESRI

Cancer affects millions of lives worldwide, yet no two experiences are the same. From diagnosis to treatment and survivorship, each patient faces a unique journey shaped by factors such as genetics, lifestyle, access to healthcare, and personal circumstances. The "United by Unique" theme highlights the importance of tailoring cancer care to meet these diverse needs, ensuring that every patient receives the most effective and supportive treatment possible.

Personalized cancer care involves precision medicine, which uses genetic profiling to develop targeted therapies. It also includes holistic support systems that address emotional, mental, and social well-being. When healthcare systems recognize and respond to these individualized needs, they can significantly improve outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients.

The "United by Unique" campaign is a three-year initiative designed to shift the focus toward people-centred cancer care. It moves beyond raising awareness and encourages actionable steps to reduce the global cancer burden. By emphasizing patient experiences and individual needs, this initiative fosters a deeper understanding of cancer's challenges and inspires meaningful change in healthcare policies and practices.

During the first phase, awareness is key. By sharing diverse patient stories and highlighting the different ways cancer impacts lives, this initiative



will set the stage for a more inclusive conversation about care. The following years will focus on mobilizing action and implementing policies that prioritize individualized cancer treatment and community-driven healthcare solutions.

A crucial aspect of personalized cancer care is building strong support networks. Patients require more than just medical treatment; they need emotional, psychological, and social support to navigate their journey. Families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and communities all play a vital role in

ensuring that individuals feel supported throughout their fight against cancer. Advancements in technology and telemedicine have also made it easier for patients to access care that suits their specific needs. From virtual consultations and recommendations, technology is helping bridge gaps in cancer care, making personalized treatment more accessible to patients worldwide.

The fight against cancer requires a united effort from individuals, communities, healthcare professionals, and policymakers. By embracing the uniqueness of each patient's experience

and prioritizing personalized care, we can create a more effective and compassionate healthcare system.

Let's stand together under the banner of "United by Unique" to advocate for better, more inclusive cancer care. Every story matters, and by acknowledging these unique journeys, we move closer to a future where everyone receives the care and support they need to overcome cancer.

Author is Senior Consultant and Head Medical Oncology, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida

Role Of Vocational Education In Present Times

ZAHoor AHMAD LONE

In the rapidly evolving global economy, vocational education has emerged as a crucial pillar in the development of a skilled workforce. Unlike traditional academic education, which emphasizes theoretical knowledge, vocational education focuses on practical skills and hands-on training. This system prepares individuals for specific careers in industries such as healthcare, engineering, information technology, hospitality, and many more. In the present times, where technological advancements and economic shifts are redefining job markets, vocational education plays a significant role in bridging the skill gap, promoting employment, and driving economic growth.

Importance of Vocational Education in the Modern World

Addressing the Skill Gap: One of the most pressing challenges faced by industries today is the mismatch between the skills required by employers and those possessed by job seekers. Traditional education often fails to equip students with job-ready skills. Vocational education fills this gap by offering specialized training in various fields, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to meet industry demands.

Enhancing Employment Opportunities: Unemployment is a major concern in many countries, particularly among youth. A lack of practical skills is a key factor contributing to this issue. Vocational education provides individuals with the necessary expertise and certifications that make them employable. Many industries actively seek candidates with vocational training, as they require less on-the-job training and can contribute immediately to productivity.

Promoting Entrepreneurship: Vocational education not only prepares individuals for jobs but also empowers them to become entrepreneurs. With the right skills, individuals can start their own businesses in areas such as plumbing, carpentry, automotive repair, beauty services, and catering. This fosters economic self-sufficiency and creates additional employment opportunities within communities.

Supporting Economic

Growth: A skilled workforce is the backbone of any economy. Vocational education contributes to economic growth by ensuring a steady supply of trained professionals in various sectors. Countries that emphasize vocational training often experience lower unemployment rates and higher productivity levels. Additionally, industries benefit from a workforce that can adapt to changing technological trends.

Reducing Dropout Rates and Offering Alternative Career Paths

Not all students excel in traditional academic settings. Many find theoretical learning challenging and prefer practical, hands-on experiences. Vocational education provides an alternative to conventional schooling, reducing dropout rates and giving students the opportunity to pursue careers that align with their interests and strengths.

Keeping Up with Technological Advancements

With rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, automation, and digital technology, industries require workers who can adapt to new tools

and processes. Vocational education programs are designed to keep up with these changes, ensuring that students are trained in the latest technologies and methodologies relevant to their fields.

Improving Social Mobility and Inclusion: Vocational education provides opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to acquire skills and secure stable employment. This helps in bridging social and economic inequalities by giving everyone, regardless of their financial or academic background, a chance to succeed.

Challenges Facing Vocational Education: Despite its importance, vocational education faces several challenges, including: **Social Stigma:** Many people still perceive vocational education as inferior to traditional university degrees. This mindset discourages students from pursuing vocational training.

Limited Awareness: In some regions, there is a lack of awareness about the benefits and career opportunities offered by vocational education.

Inadequate Infrastructure:

Some vocational training institutes lack modern equipment and experienced trainers, leading to subpar education and training.

Industry Collaboration: Strong partnerships between vocational institutions and industries are needed to ensure relevant and up-to-date training programs.

Ways to Strengthen Vocational Education

To enhance the role of vocational education, governments, educational institutions, and industries must work together to:

Promote Awareness: Campaigns should be conducted to change societal perceptions and highlight the benefits of vocational education.

Modernize Curricula: Vocational training should be updated regularly to include the latest industry trends and technological advancements.

Increase Industry Collaboration: Stronger ties between vocational institutions and industries can lead to internships, apprenticeships, and job placements.

Improve Infrastructure: Investment in modern training facilities and skilled trainers can improve the quality of

vocational education.

Encourage Government Support: Policies that promote vocational education, such as funding programs, tax benefits for vocational training providers, and scholarship opportunities, should be implemented.

Conclusion: Vocational education is a vital component of modern education systems. It equips individuals with the necessary skills to secure employment, fosters economic growth, and adapts to the ever-changing demands of industries. In an era where practical skills are highly valued, vocational training provides a viable alternative to traditional academic paths. To maximize its potential, efforts must be made to change societal perceptions, modernize training programs, and strengthen collaborations between industries and educational institutions. By doing so, vocational education can continue to play a pivotal role in shaping a skilled and prosperous global workforce.

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Good Morning

Kashmir

Printer, Publisher, Owner,
Editor in Chief:

Javed Ashraf Shah

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

Manager:

Peer Sajad

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Acute Bronchitis: Origin, Precautions And Treatment



DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

Bronchitis is an inflammation of the bronchial tubes, which are the airways that carry air to and from our lungs. It often causes symptoms such as coughing (which may bring up mucus), wheezing, chest discomfort, and shortness of breath. It is of two types: a. Acute Bronchitis: A temporary inflammation caused by infections, usually viral. Symptoms last for a few days to weeks. Often follows a cold or respiratory infection. b. Chronic Bronchitis: A long-term condition characterized by persistent inflammation of the bronchial tubes. It is often part of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The main cause is prolonged exposure to irritants like cigarette smoke, air pollution, or dust. In this context, acute bronchitis is a condition characterized by the inflammation of the bronchial tubes, which are the airways that carry air to and from the lungs. This inflammation often results in increased mucus production, swelling, and irritation of the bronchial lining.

Acute bronchitis is usually caused by: a. Viral Infections: The most common cause, often resulting from the same viruses responsible for the common cold or flu, such as rhinovirus, influenza, or coronavirus. b. Bacterial Infections: Less common but can occur, especially in people with weakened immune systems or other pre-existing conditions. c. Irritants: Exposure to tobacco smoke, pollution, dust, fumes, or chemical vapors can irritate the bronchial tubes and trigger acute bronchitis. d. Allergens: In some cases, allergens may also provoke bronchial



inflammation. Normally, the condition begins in the upper respiratory tract, typically as a viral or bacterial infection in the nose or throat. It then progresses downward to the bronchial tubes in the lower respiratory tract, where it causes inflammation.

The inflammation results in symptoms such as coughing (often with mucus), wheezing, shortness of breath, chest discomfort, and sometimes a mild fever. In daily life certain factors increase the risk of developing acute bronchitis: Smoking or exposure smoke. Pre-existing respiratory conditions like asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Weak immune system due to age, illness, or chronic diseases. Exposure to irritants or pollutants in the environment. Acute bronchitis typically resolves within a few weeks, though the cough may linger longer. Treatment focuses on symptom relief, such as staying hydrated, using cough suppressants, and avoiding irritants. In some cases, medical intervention may be required, particularly if there are signs of bacterial infection or complications.

Diet and precautions play a crucial role in managing acute bronchitis by supporting the immune system, reducing inflammation, and alleviating symptoms. a. Hydration: Drink plenty of fluids like water, herbal teas, and

clear broths to thin mucus and make it easier to expel. Avoid caffeinated and alcoholic beverages, as they can lead to dehydration. b. Anti-inflammatory Foods: Fruits: Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons) for vitamin C, which supports immunity. Vegetables: Leafy greens, broccoli, and bell peppers for antioxidants. Omega-3-rich foods: Fatty fish (salmon, mackerel), flaxseeds, and walnuts to reduce inflammation. c. Immune-Boosting Foods: Garlic, ginger, and turmeric for their anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. Yogurt with probiotics to support gut health and immunity.

Warm, Soothing Foods: Warm soups (like chicken soup) to ease throat irritation and provide essential nutrients. Honey (in warm water or tea) to soothe cough and throat discomfort. e. Foods Rich in Zinc: Nuts, seeds, beans, and whole grains to aid immune function. f. Avoid Mucus-Producing Foods: Limit dairy products if they seem to worsen mucus production. Reduce consumption of sugary and processed foods, as they can weaken the immune response. Precautions to follow include: a. Avoid Irritants: Stay away from tobacco smoke, pollution, and strong odors, as these can worsen bronchial inflammation. Use a mask if exposure to dust or pollutants is unavoidable. Rest: Ensure adequate sleep and rest

to allow your body to recover. c. Humidify the Air: Use a humidifier or take steam inhalation to keep airways moist and reduce irritation. d. Practice Good Hygiene: Wash hands frequently to prevent the spread of infections. Avoid close contact with sick individuals. e. Manage Cough: Use cough drops or lozenges to soothe the throat. Avoid suppressing a productive cough unless advised by a doctor, as coughing helps clear mucus. f. Stay Warm: Keep your chest and throat warm to avoid cold exposure, which can worsen symptoms. When to Seek Medical Help: If symptoms persist beyond two weeks or worsen (e.g., high fever, shortness of breath). If there's blood in the mucus or signs of a secondary bacterial infection. By maintaining a nutrient-rich diet and taking precautions to avoid irritants, we can speed recovery and prevent complications associated with acute bronchitis.

The treatment of bronchitis, particularly chronic and recurrent forms, has seen significant advancements, with ongoing research offering hope for even better management in the future. An overview of the concept include: a. Targeted Therapies: Biologic Drugs: Medications like monoclonal antibodies target specific pathways involved in inflammation, particularly for chronic bronchitis linked to COPD or asthma. Examples: Dupilumab, which targets inflammatory cytokines, and others being developed for personalized treatment.

Improved Inhalation Devices: Advances in nebulizers, metered-dose inhalers (MDIs), and dry powder inhalers (DPIs) ensure more efficient delivery of bronchodilators and corticosteroids to the lungs. c. Antiviral and Antibacterial Drugs: Development of broad-spectrum antivirals and antibiotics with fewer side effects to manage bronchitis caused by infections. Innovations in drug formulation to overcome antibiotic resistance, such as using nanocarriers for targeted drug delivery. d. Vaccines: Improved vaccines for influenza and pneumococcal infections reduce the risk of viral or bacterial bronchitis. Ongoing development of universal flu vaccines and

RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccines may provide broader protection. e. Telemedicine and AI in Diagnosis: AI-powered tools analyze symptoms and lung function tests to provide quicker and more accurate diagnoses. Telemedicine allows for remote monitoring and management, especially for patients with recurrent bronchitis. Future Directions: Regenerative Medicine: Stem cell therapy is being explored to repair damaged lung tissues, particularly in chronic bronchitis and COPD. Research is focused on promoting the regeneration of healthy bronchial cells to restore normal lung function.

Gene Therapy: Gene-editing tools like CRISPR may be used to correct genetic predispositions to chronic bronchitis or improve immune responses to infections. c. Personalized Medicine: Use of biomarkers to tailor treatments based on individual patient profiles, ensuring better outcomes with fewer side effects. Pharmacogenomics to predict how patients respond to specific drugs. d. Microbiome Research: Understanding the lung microbiome's role in bronchitis development could lead to probiotics or microbiome-based therapies to restore balance. e. Nanotechnology: Nanoparticles designed to deliver drugs directly to inflamed areas of the bronchial tubes, minimizing systemic side effects and improving efficacy. f. AI-Powered Drug Discovery: AI is speeding up the development of new drugs by identifying potential compounds and predicting their effects on bronchitis-related inflammation. f. Enhanced Non-Medical Interventions: Advances in wearable technology to monitor respiratory health and detect early signs of bronchitis flare-ups. Smart devices paired with apps to provide real-time data on air quality and lung health.

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Understanding The Struggle Of Third Genders



MUSKAN SHAFI MALIK

According to the American Psychological Association. "Transgender is an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behaviour does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth."

But apart from male and female nowadays more terms exist. Transgender individuals have been an integral part of society for centuries, contributing significantly to various aspects of human life. Despite facing numerous challenges and barriers, transgender people continue to inspire, educate, and transform communities worldwide.

The term "transgender" has its roots in the 20th century. The term "transgender" was first coined by American psychologist John Oliven in 1965 then in 1970s-80s, The term gained popularity through the work of activists like Virginia Prince, who used it to describe individuals who identified with a different gender than their assigned sex .In 1990s The term became more widely accepted and was included in various LGBTQ organizations' mission statements And finally in 2000s-present and "Transgender" has become an umbrella term, encompassing various identities, including trans men, trans women, non-binary, and more.

The evolution of the term "transgender" reflects the growing recognition and acceptance of diverse gender identities worldwide. Transgender here I include the people who naturally are of that kind. Those who do this by performing surgeries or some changes in hormones do it by their choice and hence they don't care much about the society. But who naturally carry this might be very affected

As we explore the complexities of our society, it's essential to recognize and celebrate individuals who embody the values of compassion, resilience, and humanity. Transgender people from Kashmir left an indelible mark on the lives of those around them and their story continues to inspire us today.

One of the transgender's journey is not without challenges. They Faced many tough challenges like rejection

and ridicule from her family, school-mates, and relatives, they found solace in their community and discovered their passion for singing and dancing. Same with the story of one of the special personalities who really impressed and put an impression on my soul and spirit. However, fate had other plans, and her life took a dramatic turn when she lost her brother.

In a remarkable display of selflessness, She said in many of her interviews that she put aside her own desires and dedicated her life to raising her brother's four children. As a tailor, she worked tirelessly to provide for them, and her love and care helped shape them into successful individuals – a doctor, an engineer, and two graduates with Master's degrees.

Her story is a powerful reminder that being human is not just about biology, but about the love, compassion, and kindness we show to others. As we reflect on her life, we are compelled to ask ourselves what does it mean to be human? She faced a lot of taunts not from other than family but from family members also. In Kashmir society they are only meant to matchmakers and singers at weddings. But on the other hand One of the other people had a passion for makeup artists by stopping the prejudice that they are not only meant for singing and matchmaking.

In a world where discrimination and prejudice against this community persist, the story of many such personalities becomes a beacon of hope. It challenges us to reexamine our attitudes and biases, and to recognize the inherent value and dignity of every individual.

Basically what I observed and watched in many documentaries is that a person of that community had to face three phases of his or her life. Firstly, childhood where their behaviour not in their hands changes automatically and they face issues at going schools or playing with friends. The dropouts at that time automatically led the other two coming phased to be worsened. The other being of teenagers where they fear and have pressure of not revealing the things but where the upbringing and education has been well developed may be there would be less chances of such pressure. Third in their adulthood where There arises a question where they will live, that would be the possible reason they have their own communities. It means the people who face the same issue are only able to understand their real pain. But on the other hand their parents who feel societal pressure and feel ashamed let them go easily. But on the other hand, there is totally outstanding side of story where the great



Impact of Transgender Individuals on Society

Transgender individuals have made remarkable contributions to various fields, including transgender artists, writers, musicians, and filmmakers have enriched our cultural landscape with their unique perspectives and talents. Like they have contributed a lot in Kashmir culture. These individuals have been at the forefront of social activism, advocating for rights, equality, and justice.

These individuals bring diversity, creativity, and innovation to the workforce, contributing significantly to economic growth and development. According to a Human Rights Campaign report, inclusive workplaces that support transgender employees see improved job satisfaction, reduced turnover rates, and increased productivity.

Transgender individuals' personal stories of resilience, courage, and self-discovery inspire and educate people worldwide. By sharing their experiences, transgender people help break down stereotypes, challenge misconceptions, and promote empathy and understanding. Back in 2019, Narthaki Nataraj, a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer from Tamil Nadu, made history by becoming the first transgender woman to receive the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019 .This recognition not only honoured her artistic contributions but also marked a significant milestone for the transgender community in India.

Transgender people often encounter discrimination, harassment, and violence in various aspects of life, such as employment, education, healthcare, and housing. They experience higher rates of mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation, due to societal stigma, rejection, and lack of support.

These people face significant barriers in employment and education, including discriminatory policies, lack of inclusiv-

ity, and inadequate support systems. I do keen observation while I walk towards my institute for studies. Many of them either travel with me in buses or other vehicles. Some respect them, some of them mock them and laugh loudly and one of the best thing I do learnt from them is "JUST IGNORE" Ignoring has really a true power where it is truly needed. Transgender individuals, particularly transgender women of colour, are disproportionately affected by violence, hate and crimes

Importance of Acceptance and Support

Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for transgender individuals is crucial for their well-being, safety, and success. Creating Inclusive Environments Employers, educators, and community leaders can create inclusive environments by implementing policies and practices that support transgender individuals, such as Using correct pronouns and respecting identities, many people use very abusive languages and words. Providing inclusive facilities, such as gender-neutral bathrooms, Offering training and education on transgender issues especially awareness programmes.

Fostering a culture of acceptance and respect

Advocating for Policies and Laws

Supporting policies and laws that protect transgender rights, such a Anti-discrimination laws, Healthcare access and inclusivity, Identity document changes and Hate crime protections.

We should Educating Oneself and Others

Continuously like Transgender history and culture, Transgender rights and advocacy health and wellness inclusivity and support.

These should above from the gender , bringing any sort of religion or something else dragging into it we must consider them humans and the real cause behind these happenings. Human

being and being human are very different aspects so we are naturally human beings but being human is rarely to be seen nowadays so approach of being human should reflect there.

The third side of the story that I pondered while travelling from Kashmir to Delhi is a rising concern about "fake" transgender individuals that is a complex issue that involves misrepresentation, access to resources, safety, and undermining transgender rights. Fake transgender individuals may misrepresent the experiences and challenges faced by the transgender community, perpetuating stereotypes and stigma, and may take advantage of resources intended for the community. They may also put themselves and others at risk, particularly in situations where safety and trust are paramount. Identifying fake transgender individuals can be challenging, but inconsistencies in their narrative or identity, inadequate understanding of transgender issues, incongruent behavior, and manipulative behavior can be indicators. To address this concern, education and awareness about transgender issues, community engagement, supporting transgender organizations, and encouraging self-reflection are essential. By promoting inclusivity, understanding, and acceptance, we can create a supportive environment for all individuals, regardless of their gender identity, and reduce the likelihood of misrepresentation. Some of the movies have also depicted how people due to high levels of unemployment turn into fake individuals and earn through sympathy in many parts and corners. Unemployment being another issue indeed but this case is very sensitive and uses gender as a source as it really affects the real ones. One of the dialogues That drew my attention was also In one of the drama series "Taali". Where The main role actress asks multiple questions in just one go to one of the fake transgender and with a skip of tongue he reveals his wife's name. Revealed that there is indeed this concern.

Transgender individuals play a vital role in society, contributing significantly to various aspects of human life. Despite facing numerous challenges, transgender people continue to inspire, educate, and transform communities worldwide. By promoting acceptance, understanding, and inclusivity, we can create a more welcoming and supportive environment for transgender individuals. We should accept this diversity, challenge discrimination, and advocate for the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

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Weight Loss Hacks: These Morning Habits Will Help Burn Your Belly Fat Faster

Burning belly fat is crucial for overall health, as excess visceral fat around the abdomen increases the risk of serious health conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and metabolic disorders. Unlike subcutaneous fat, visceral fat surrounds vital organs and actively contributes to inflammation and insulin resistance. While diet and exercise play a significant role in reducing belly fat, daily habits especially morning routines can set the tone for the day and accelerate fat-burning. Establishing the right habits in the morning can boost metabolism, regulate appetite, reduce stress levels, and improve digestion, all of which contribute to

effective belly fat loss over time. Read on as we share a list of morning habits you can adopt to burn belly fat quickly.

Morning habits to help you burn belly fat quickly

1. Drink warm lemon water
- Starting your day with a glass of warm lemon water helps detoxify the body and kick-starts metabolism. The citric acid in lemon aids digestion and enhances liver function, which is crucial for fat metabolism. Adding a pinch of cinnamon or honey can further support fat-burning by stabilising blood sugar levels and reducing cravings.
2. Stay hydrated with lukewarm water
- Drinking a glass or two of lukewarm water on an empty stomach helps activate the



digestive system and flush out toxins. Proper hydration supports metabolic processes, keeps bloating at bay, and prevents unnecessary fat accumulation. Adding chia seeds or apple cider vinegar to the water can further enhance its fat-burning effects.

3. Engage in morning exercise

Physical activity in the morning, whether it's cardio, yoga, strength training, or HIIT (high-intensity interval training), helps burn calories and boosts metabolism for the entire day. Strength training, in particular, builds muscle, which in turn increases the body's resting metabolic rate and enhances fat loss around the belly. Even a brisk 20-30-minute walk can be effective in reducing abdominal fat.

4. Have a high-protein breakfast
- Eating a protein-rich breakfast helps curb hunger and prevents unhealthy snacking later in the day. Protein also helps in maintaining muscle mass while reducing fat. Foods like eggs, Greek yogurt, nuts, seeds, and cottage cheese provide sus-

tained energy and keep cravings under control, ultimately promoting belly fat loss.

5. Avoid sugary drinks & refined carbs early in the day
- Starting the morning with sugary tea, coffee with excessive cream, or refined carbs (such as white bread or pastries) can spike insulin levels and increase fat storage. Instead, opt for black coffee, green tea, or herbal infusions, and pair them with fibre-rich foods to keep blood sugar levels stable.
6. Perform intermittent fasting
- Intermittent fasting, especially the 16:8 method (fasting for 16 hours and eating within an 8-hour window), has been shown to reduce belly fat by improving insulin sensitivity and increasing fat-burning hor-

mones. A simple way to practice this is by delaying breakfast slightly and having the first meal of the day around noon.

7. Proper sleep and wake-up routine
- Inconsistent sleep patterns and inadequate rest can lead to hormonal imbalances, increased cravings, and slowed metabolism. Waking up at the same time every day and getting 7-9 hours of quality sleep ensures that the body's fat-burning mechanisms function optimally. Proper rest prevents excess cortisol production, which is a key contributor to belly fat retention.
- Combining these habits with a balanced diet and regular exercise will further enhance long-term fat-burning results.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

5 Terrorists Killed

serviceman, Manzoor Ahmad Wagay by terrorists in Kulgam district of the Valley.

The retired soldier's wife and daughter were injured in the terrorist attack.

There was a political uproar in J&K after the ex-serviceman's killing as local politicians of the ruling National Conference, Congress and the Peoples Democratic Party criticised the Centre for claiming normalcy in the UT.

Govt to Finalize

"The CDF for MLAs could be somewhere between Rs 3 to Rs 5 crore," they said, adding that MLAs were entitled to a CDF of Rs 3 crore each in the erstwhile state of J&K.

The budget for 2025-26 is likely to be presented between March 04 and March 10 in the Assembly. The budget session of the J&K Assembly will begin on March 03 with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's address to the House.

CRPF Chief

established under the CRPF's 237 Battalion, in Koprato — a site that witnessed significant terror activity during the past four years.

He also engaged with officers and jawans, listening to their operational experiences.

The officials said Singh laid stress on the importance of maintaining strong commitment to duty while ensuring a healthy work-life balance.

His visit is being viewed as a morale booster for the troops engaged in counter-insurgency operations, they said.

Delhi HC Reserves

What is the difficulty in sending him in custody? Come back with instructions tomorrow," remarked Justice Mahajan-led Bench on Thursday, as it sought NIA's stand in the matter.

Engineer Rashid has petitioned the Delhi High Court seeking directions to the trial court judge to expedite a decision on his pending regular bail application or decide the matter itself.

Earlier, a court here, instead of passing an order on the application for regular bail, had recommended the District Judge to transfer his case to the MP/MLA court as Rashid became an MP.

In his plea pending before the Delhi HC, he moved an application seeking interim bail to attend the ongoing Budget session of the Parliament, which began on January 31 and will conclude on April 4.

In the alternative, Engineer Rashid prayed that he be given custody parole, if not interim bail, to attend the Parliament session.

The NIA has opposed the interim bail plea of Engineer Rashid.

The Delhi High Court had on Tuesday called for a reply from its registry over the designation of an appropriate court to hear Rashid's bail plea. After the NIA's counsel submitted that the anti-terror agency in November last year had made a representation to the registry on the issue of designation of the NIA court as a court which could hear cases against lawmakers, the Justice Mahajan-led Bench issued a notice to the Registrar General to ascertain the status and posted the matter for hearing on February 6.

In the course of the hearing on Thursday, the counsel representing the Registrar General stated that an application has been moved before the Supreme Court seeking clarification on the issue of designation of a court, adding that the issue will be mentioned before the Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Friday for urgent listing.

Engineer Rashid was arrested by the NIA in 2019 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The ED had also filed a money laundering case against him and the accused persons on the basis of the NIA's FIR, which accused them of conspiring to wage war against the government and fomenting trouble in the Valley. Engineer Rashid has represented the Langate Assembly constituency in J&K twice. His

brother, Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad won the 2024 Assembly election from Langate.

LG Sinha Asks

the ideal opportunity to promote reading habit, celebrate the contribution of literary communities, keep track of new ideas and invite writers and citizens for cultural exchange and intellectual discourse to expand our horizon," Sinha posted on X.

"A book is the best companion, which offers new ideas and perspectives in our life journey. It is the best medium for thinkers, scientists and spiritualists to preserve and carry forward the wealth of knowledge for the benefit of future generations," he added.

Mirwaiz To Get

his outreach to the Kashmiri Pandit community. Based on this assessment, the police have decided to reinstate his security cover which was withdrawn in 2019 .(KNS)

GI Registry Assigns

best in niche global markets, are in pursuit of securing GI registration for all categories.

Apart from hand-knotted carpet, six other crafts have already been GI registered which include Papier Mache, Kashmir Pashmina, Kani, Sozni, Khatamband and Walnut Wood Carving.

50% Libraries

all states of India, Jammu and Kashmir education sector has second highest 'Untrained Teachers' at Pre-Primary and Upper Primary levels.

Besides, the Union Territory has 4th highest untrained teachers at primary level as well.

The recent official figures reveal that the highest numbers of untrained teachers were reported in Tamil Nadu followed by Jammu and Kashmir wherein only 22.3 percent of teachers at Pre-Primary levels (Kindergartens) were trained to teach the students.

Pertinently, a local news agency KNO published a series of stories—highlighting the major loopholes in both government and private education sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

The recent official figures reveal that "Among the total 24,296 government and private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, only 373 institutions that amount to 1.53 percent were having the digital libraries."

It also reveals that in 5452 private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, more than 12 Lakh students and in the case of 18,785 government schools, over 14 Lakh students were enrolled.

CM Omar Chairs

Public representatives, including District Development Council (DDC) Chairpersons and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Pulwama and Reasi districts, raised concerns regarding electricity supply, drinking water schemes, flood management, staffing of schools and hospitals, upgradation of primary health centers, construction of bridges, and the development of new tourist destinations, parks, and parking facilities.

Addressing the participants, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized that these consultations were essential for shaping a budget that truly reflects the aspirations of the people. He acknowledged the pivotal role of public representatives in understanding grassroots-level challenges and assured them that their concerns would be duly considered.

The Chief Minister stated that this budget held special significance as it was the first time in many years that Jammu & Kashmir was preparing its own budget in consultation with public representatives. He stressed that these consultations were

an effort to ensure inclusivity in the budgeting process.

"In the past, it was not possible for the Finance Minister of the country to meet with you all and discuss Jammu & Kashmir's specific needs. But after the elections and the formation of our government, we now have the authority to draft our own budget, making these interactions even more crucial," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that over 33 interventions had been made during the session, reflecting the wide range of developmental issues requiring attention. He assured the participants that while it was not possible to address each demand immediately, "nothing that has been said here will be ignored" and that all concerns would be carefully examined during budget formulation.

Touching upon economic growth and industrial development, he stressed the need to support manufacturing, trade, and tourism. He noted the expansion of the railway network, highlighting how connectivity had gradually improved from Pathankot to Jammu, then to Udhampur and Katra, with plans for the train to reach Srinagar this year. However, he said that apprehensions over Jammu's economy must be addressed from the adverse effects of shifting trade patterns, ensuring that the region continues to thrive as a commercial hub.

On tourism, the Chief Minister emphasized that Jammu had immense potential, particularly in religious and pilgrimage tourism. He said, "If marketed and promoted effectively, Jammu province can become India's top destination for religious tourism." He noted that while most visitors come for Mata Vaishno Devi's pilgrimage, efforts must be made to showcase Jammu's other sacred sites, encouraging pilgrims to extend their stay and explore the region's cultural heritage.

He also stressed the importance of sports tourism, stating that discussions were underway for organizing a major sports event in Jammu, similar to the successful Srinagar Marathon. Plans were also in place for the expansion of Jammu Airport, addressing infrastructural challenges to improve connectivity.

The Chief Minister also expressed his support for private education, stating that Jammu & Kashmir should explore legislative frameworks to encourage the establishment of private universities, providing more opportunities for quality higher education.

Concluding his address, he thanked all participants for their valuable inputs, assuring them that their concerns and suggestions would be incorporated into the government's policies and development agenda. "We will try to ensure that your ideas are reflected in our policies and programs. Your time and efforts in this consultation process are truly appreciated," he said.

In a separate pre-budget consultation session, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met with representatives from various sectors, including industry & trade, tourism, hotel & hospitality, education, social welfare, tribal affairs, youth affairs, and agriculture.

During the session, stakeholders from various sectors, including industry & trade, tourism, hotel & hospitality, education, social welfare, tribal affairs, youth affairs, and agriculture, put forth several key demands. They emphasized the need for developing Jammu as a religious and pilgrimage tourism hub, expanding private education opportunities, enhancing sports infrastructure, and strengthening support for tribal communities. Additionally, discussions were held on boosting tourism, improving trade policies, and fostering industrial growth to drive economic development in the region.

During his interaction, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that the upcoming J&K Budget reflects the aspirations of the people, incorporating their demands into the government's development agenda

Reviews Half

Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Director Tourism Jammu, representatives from BISAG-N, marathon experts, and other concerned officials, both

in person and virtually.

Speaking at the meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah appreciated the initiative, emphasizing that the marathon should receive widespread publicity to attract top athletes from across the country.

The chief minister highlighted the significance of such events in boosting tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and positioning the region as a prime destination for sports and adventure tourism. "The success of this marathon will not only promote fitness and sports culture but will also bring Jammu into the spotlight as a key tourist destination. Ensure that all necessary preparations are in place and give the event the prominence it deserves," the Chief Minister directed the officials.

At the outset, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal presented a detailed overview of the planned events.

She briefed the meeting on the proposed routes, event schedules, and logistical arrangements for the marathon.

The Chief Minister instructed the officials to ensure that the event dates do not clash with other major marathons across the country, allowing maximum participation from national and international athletes.

The Jammu Half Marathon 2025 will feature: 21 km Half Marathon, 10 km Fitness Gauge Run and 5 km Fun Run. Discussions were also held on the route planning, prize structure, logo, flag-off timings, T shirts, branding, sponsorships, and digital outreach.

The meeting emphasized collaboration with key stakeholders, including the trade and travel industry, hotel and hospitality sector, corporate sponsors, government departments, and business establishments to enhance the event's scale and impact.

Additionally, the meeting reviewed the Jammu Ultra Marathon, drawing inspiration from prestigious ultra-marathons like the Khardung La Challenge and Bangalore Ultra Marathon. The discussion covered key aspects such as the route, prize structure, registration process, branding, and promotional activities.

The inclusion of an adventure race in Kashmir valley was also deliberated upon.

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure meticulous planning and execution to make the Jammu Half Marathon & Ultra Marathon 2025 a landmark event, promoting Jammu as one of the premier sports tourism centre.

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RBI raises real GDP growth forecast to 6.7 pc for 2025-26

IAN S

MUMBAI : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday raised the country's real GDP growth forecast to real GDP growth for 2025-26 to 6.7 per cent, as it expects a robust rabi crop output and an expected recovery in industrial activity to support economic growth going ahead.

It also expects CPI inflation to moderate to 4.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of the current financial year and decline further to 4.2 per cent in 2025-26.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that "looking ahead, healthy rabi prospects and an expected recovery in industrial activity should support economic growth in 2025-26".

"Among the key drivers on the demand side, household consumption is expected to remain robust aided by the tax relief in the Union Budget 2025-26," Malhotra noted.

"Fixed investment is expected to recover, supported by higher capacity utilisation levels, healthy balance sheets of financial institutions and corporates, and Government's continued emphasis on capital expenditure," Malhotra said in his address after the monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting.

At the same time, he mentioned the risk to growth posed by global



uncertainties and climate change.

"Taking all these factors into consideration, real GDP growth for 2025-26 is projected at 6.7 per cent with Q1 at 6.7 per cent; Q2 at 7.0 per cent; and Q3 and Q4 at 6.5 per cent each. The risks are evenly balanced," said the RBI Governor.

The RBI had in December revised its GDP growth forecast to 6.6 per cent from 7.2 per cent earlier.

He pointed out that the global economy is growing below the historical average even though high frequency indicators suggest resilience amidst continued expansion in world trade. The world economic landscape remains challenging with slower pace of disinflation, lingering geopolitical tensions and policy uncertainties, he added.

Malhotra also said that the strong US dollar continues to strain emerging market currencies

and enhance volatility in financial markets. In this context he mentioned that the RBI was keeping a close watch on the depreciation of the rupee and taking all steps to stabilized the Indian currency.

"On the domestic front, as per the First Advance Estimates, real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 6.4 per cent (y-o-y) in 2024-25 supported by a recovery in private consumption. On the supply side, growth is supported by the services sector and a recovery in agriculture sector, while tepid industrial growth is a drag," he said.

Resilient services exports will continue to support growth. However, headwinds from geo-political tensions, protectionist trade policies, volatility in international commodity prices and financial market uncertainties, continue to pose downside risks to the outlook, he added.

The RBI Governor also said that headline inflation softened sequentially in November-December 2024 from its recent peak of 6.2 per cent in October. The moderation in food inflation, as vegetable price inflation came off from its October high, drove the decline in headline inflation. Core inflation remained subdued across goods and services components and the fuel group continued to be in deflation.

Going ahead, food inflation pressures, absent any supply side shock, should see a significant softening due to good kharif production, winter-easing in vegetable prices and favourable rabi crop prospects. Core inflation is expected to rise but remain moderate.

However, continued uncertainty in global financial markets coupled with volatility in energy prices and adverse weather events presents upside risks to the inflation trajectory, he added.

The RBI Governor said taking all these factors into consideration, CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.8 per cent with Q4 at 4.4 per cent. Assuming a normal monsoon next year, CPI inflation for 2025-26 is projected at 4.2 per cent with Q1 at 4.5 per cent; Q2 at 4.0 percent; Q3 at 3.8 per cent; and Q4 at 4.2 per cent. The risks are evenly balanced.

Court to pronounce judgement against Sajjan Kumar in 1984 Anti-Sikh riots case today

IAN S

NEW DELHI : A Delhi court on Friday is set to pronounce its judgement in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case against former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar.

The case is related to the killing of a father-son duo in the Saraswati Vihar area on November 1, 1984.

Special judge Kaveri Baweja is to pronounce the judgement on Friday.

On January 31, the court reserved the order after hearing additional submissions by the Public Prosecutor Manish Rawat.

This case is related to the killings of one Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh in the Saraswati Vihar area on November 1, 1984.

Advocate Anil Sharma had submitted that Sajjan Kumar's name was not there from the very beginning, the law of foreign land is not applicable in this case and there was a delay of 16 years in naming Sajjan Kumar by the witness.

It was also submitted that a case in which Sajjan Kumar was convicted by the Delhi High Court is pending appeal before the Supreme Court.

Advocate Anil Sharma had also referred to the case cited by the senior advocate H.S. Phoolka.

He submitted that the law of the land will prevail even in extraordinary situation and not international law.

Additional Public Prosecutor Manish Rawat in rebuttal had submitted that the accused was not known to the victim. When she became aware of who is Sajjan Kumar, she named



him in her statement.

Earlier, Senior advocate H.S. Phoolka had appeared for riot victims and had argued that the police investigations were manipulated in the Sikh riots cases. Police investigation was tardy and to save the accused.

It was argued that during the riots the situation was extraordinary. Therefore, these cases have to be dealt with in this context.

During the arguments, senior advocate H.S. Phoolka referred to the judgement of the Delhi High Court and submitted that it was not an isolated case, it was a part of a bigger massacre, it is a part of genocide.

It was further argued that as per official figures, 2,700 Sikhs were killed in Delhi in 1984.

Senior Advocate Phoolka had referred to the Delhi High Court judgement in the 1984 anti-Sikh riot case of Delhi Cantt wherein the court called the riots a "crime against humanity". It was also said that the objective of genocide is always targeting minorities.

"There is a delay. The Supreme Court took it seriously that there was delay and a SIT was constituted," he argued.

The senior advocate had also referred to the judgement delivered by foreign courts in the cases of genocide and crime against humanity. He also referred to the Geneva Convention.

It was also submitted that a charge sheet was prepared against Sajjan Kumar in 1992 but it was not filed in the court. It shows that the police were trying to save Sajjan Kumar.

On November 1, 2023, the court had recorded the statement of Sajjan Kumar. He had denied all the charges levelled against him.

Initially, an FIR was registered at Punjabi Bagh police station. Later on, this case was investigated by the Special Investigation Team constituted on the recommendation of Justice G P Mathur committee and filed a charge sheet.

The committee had recommended the reopening of 114 cases. This case was one of them.

On December 16, 2021,

the court framed charges against the accused Sajjan Kumar for the commission of the offences punishable under sections 147, 148, and 149 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as well as the offences punishable under sections 302, 308, 323, 395, 397, 427, 436, and 440 read with section 149 IPC.

It has been alleged by the SIT that the accused was leading the said mob and upon his instigation and abetment, the mob had burnt alive the above two persons and had also damaged, destroyed and looted their household articles and other property and burnt their house and also inflicted severe injuries on the person of their family members and relatives residing in their house.

It is claimed that during the investigation, material witnesses of the case were traced out, and examined, and their statements were recorded under section 161 CrPc.

The statements of complainant under the above provision were recorded on November 23, 2016, during the course of this further investigation, in which she again narrated the above incident of looting, arson and murders of her husband and son by the mob armed with deadly weapons and she is also claimed to have deposed therein about the injuries suffered by her and the other victims of the case, including her sister in law who is stated to have subsequently expired.

She had also clarified in that statement that the photograph of the accused was seen by her in a magazine after around one and half months.

BJP cites official data on jobs to counter Congress claim



IAN S

NEW DELHI : The BJP has hit back at the Congress over its claim that the Narendra Modi government has not created enough jobs in the country. The ruling party has come out with a fact sheet for "setting the record straight on job creation" which states that during the Congress-led UPA regime, employment growth was stagnant with only 2.9 crore jobs being created over a decade. By contrast, the NDA has generated 17.9 crore jobs, including 4.6 crore in 2023-24 alone.

The BJP has cited NSSO data to point out that while unemployment under the UPA rose to 4.7 per cent, the unemployment rate has decreased under the Modi Government from 5.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24. It further stated that the rural unemployment rate under the Modi Government has declined, based on the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data.

It further stated that the female labour force par-

ticipation rate (LFPR) rose from 23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 37 per cent in 2022-23. This has been enabled by 89.8 lakh Lakshpati Didis and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) which provided women, especially in rural areas, with the means to achieve an annual household income of at least Rs 1 lakh, the BJP has stated.

Highlighting the startup boom in the country, the BJP said that in 2013, the country had only 452 recognized startups, but by 2024, this number had surged to 1.59 lakh, directly generating 17.2 lakh jobs.

In November 2024 alone, 14.63 lakh new members were added to EPFO (November 2024) reflecting the surge in job formalisation, the BJP said.

It has also underscored the internship programme introduced in the Budget for 2024-25 which the party said has resulted in 14 crore youth being trained under Skill India and now under PM Internship Scheme 2025, besides, 1 crore students will be trained and given internship over five years, engaging India's top 500 companies.

Bomb threats target schools in Delhi-NCR; authorities on high alert

IAN S

NEW DELHI : Schools in Delhi and Noida have once again received bomb threats, prompting swift security measures and emergency protocols.

In response, school administrations and law enforcement agencies have activated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Authorities are currently investigating the source of the threats while intensifying security across schools in Delhi-NCR. The situation remains under close scrutiny as officials work to verify the credibility of the threats and maintain public safety.

Earlier on Wednesday, four private schools in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, received bomb threats, causing panic among parents, teachers, and students.

The bomb threat was received by Step by Step School, The Heritage School, Gyanashree School and Mayur School via emails, prompting the school administrations to alert the district administration and police.

Immediately after receiving the information a UP Police team, Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS), fire brigade and dog squad were sent to the spot, who conducted a thorough investigation of the schools.

The police said that there was nothing to worry

about, as after investigation, the situation was found to be normal in all the schools and in many schools, classes were resumed after a few hours.

The police appealed to the public not to pay attention to rumours and maintain patience.

Later in the day, a 14-year-old boy was apprehended for allegedly sending the bomb threat as he did not want to attend school.

He told the police that he got the idea after reading about the bomb threats in various schools across the country.

According to the police the boy had done a lot of research on the topic online before drafting the email.

The Class 9 boy was booked under the sections of the IT Act at the Sector 126 police station in Noida.

In a similar case, on January 10, a Class 12 student, who sent bomb threat emails to 23 schools earlier was detained from Delhi. The minor's detention comes after a police probe into bomb threats found his role in the crime.

Preliminary investigations revealed that he did not want to appear for examinations. The boy sent bomb threat emails to many schools, barring his educational institution.

The string of bomb threats in the past few weeks, which later turned out to be hoaxes, had sent police into a tizzy.

TB Mukt Bharat campaign screens 5.63 cr people, notifies 1.59 lakh new TB patients: Nadda

IAN S

NEW DELHI : The health ministry's 100-day intensified campaign on tuberculosis Mukt Bharat has screened 5.63 crore vulnerable people and notified 1.59 lakh new TB patients from 347 districts, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda in Parliament on Friday.

The 100-day campaign which started on December 7, 2024, and will continue till March 24, aims to end TB this year - five years ahead of the global target. The campaign aims to target selected 347 high-priority districts across 33 States/UTs.

"From the launch of the 100 days intensified TB elimination campaign in 347 districts, 4.94 lakh Ni-kshay shivirs ((screening camps) have been held, 5.63 crore vulnerable individuals have been screened and 1.59 lakh new TB patients have been notified," Nadda said in a written response in Lok Sabha.

He informed that 86,748 new Ni-kshay Mitras have been registered and 1.12 lakh food baskets have been disbursed to TB patients and their family members.

Nikshay-Mitras can be individuals, NGOs, cooperative societies, faith-based organisations, corporates, political parties, and others. A Mitra can adopt a minimum

of one consented TB patient on treatment for a minimum period of six months for any kind of support they want to give to the patient.

Further, the Union Health Minister said that 38 of the total campaign districts are tribal, while 27 are mining and 46 are aspirational districts.

"The campaign follows a renewed approach to find missing TB cases, reduce TB deaths, and prevent new cases," he said.

Nadda added that the government has also organised special outreach camps to screen vulnerable populations and offer X-ray and Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) tests, either through mobile medical vans or by mobilising them to the nearest health facility equipped with X-rays. All services related to TB have been decentralised to the level of Ayushman Arogya Mandir to ensure equitable access, Nadda said.

Campaign-specific information, education, and communication materials have been developed and disseminated to educate the public and raise awareness about symptoms, prevention, and the importance of timely treatment for TB in the campaign states and UTs, including Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Karnataka HC quashes plea seeking CBI probe against CM Siddaramaiah in MUDA case

IAN S

BENGALURU : In a major relief for Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Dharwad Bench of the Karnataka High Court, led by Justice M. Nagaprasanna, on Friday quashed a petition seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court had reserved its verdict on January 27.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was named as the first accused in the case, while his wife, B.M. Parvathi was listed as the second accused.

Reacting to the ruling, petitioner Snehmayi Krishna termed it a temporary setback and stated that an appeal would be filed once the order sheet was available.

The case revolves around allegations that Siddaramaiah used his political influence to secure compensation for 14 sites in his wife's name in exchange for 3 acres and 16 guntas of land acquired by the MUDA.

The petitioner had objected to the ongoing investigation by the Karnata

taka Lokayukta and sought a CBI probe instead.

While reserving its judgment, the court had directed Lokayukta to continue its investigation and submit a further report.

Six prominent lawyers argued the case, citing Supreme Court judgments.

Petitioner's counsel, Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, emphasized the need for an independent CBI probe. He argued that an impartial investigation is essential when high-ranking government figures are accused. "The entire cabinet has decided to shield CM Siddaramaiah in this case," he contended.

Senior counsel Kapil Sibal countered that the petitioner initially sought a Lokayukta probe but later demanded a CBI inquiry before the Lokayukta could complete its investigation. "The CBI is also under government control. The Lokayukta police, however, function independently under the Lokayukta institution," he argued.

Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi maintained that this was not a "rarest of the rare" case warranting a CBI investigation, asserting that allowing such petitions would set a dangerous precedent.

Mahakumbh 2025: Devotees thank Adani Group for distributing Aarti collection booklets free of cost

IAN S

PRAYAGRAJ : Devotees gathering at the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj have expressed happiness and thanked the Adani Group and its Chairman Gautam Adani for giving free Aarti collection as a gift to them.

The Maha Kumbh 2025 is breaking and setting new records every day in terms of the enthusiasm of devotees visiting it.

The Geeta Press and the Adani Group together are dis-

tributing the free Aarti collection as a gift to the devotees coming to the Maha Kumbh in every corner.

This special arrangement has been made by the Adani Group for the convenience of the Kalpavasis -- who reside for the entire period of Kumbh Mela at the Sangam. A Kalpavasi takes a dip at the Sangam on all days.

A Kalp is the total years in the four yugas - Satyug, Treta, Dwapar, and Kaliyug. This adds up to several millions of years. When a devotee performs Kalpavasi, he/she overcomes the



sins in earlier birth and escapes from the numerous rebirths.

Aarti collection booklets are

being distributed on behalf of the Adani Group to the devotees who came to Mahakumbh.

A devotee from Bihar, who came to Maha Kumbh, told IANS that he received the Aarti-collection booklet and thanked the Adani Group for this noble initiative.

Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) resident Sitaram Das told IANS: "Great work is being done by Adani Group at the Maha Kumbh. I thank the Adani Group for this noble gesture.

While talking to IANS, Prayagraj resident Ragini Singh said: "I have taken this booklet for the first time. Good work is being done by the Adani Group at the Maha Kumbh."

Another devotee told IANS that this place is blessed, adding that every facility, including the Aarti collection booklet, is available here at the Kumbh.

Ravindra Kumar Goswami, who came to Maha Kumbh from Colonelganj district of Uttar Pradesh's Gonda, thanked the Adani Group for the Aarti collection.

He said that it feels great to be here. "We have taken a lot of service from the Adani Group here."

Pradeep, who came to Maha Kumbh from Haryana, said: "We (devotees) have taken the

services of the Adani Group, I am very happy with it. I thank the Adani Group profusely for providing such a service. Along with this he also received the Aarti-Sangraha booklet."

Nishith Jaiswal, a resident of Sitamarhi district in Bihar, said: "It would be good if Gautam Adani is there at the Maha Kumbh. The arrangements here are very good. Apart from the temple, we have also seen other things here. Now we will go for the Prasad.

Another devotee Renu Jaiswal said that she felt very happy to come to the Maha Kumbh.

AI based Samadhan 2.0; an interactive platform for disposal of public grievances

CS dedicates upgraded version to public

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today dedicated Samadhan 2.0, an interactive AI based platform, with all new features for both public and administration to ensure quality disposal of grievances registered by the citizens on this portal.

All the Administrative Heads of various departments besides others were present on the occasion.

The Chief Secretary assessed the upgraded features of this rechristened public grievance portal, evaluated the prospective outcomes and improvements to be obtained by the people with its introduction. He enjoined upon the developers to incorporate the features such as filters to trickle down grievances based upon their content, area, department, pendency, settlement, gender and timeframe. He also suggested to use AI for identification of similar grievances so that these are clubbed for redressal in a time bound manner.

The Chief Secretary also advised them to keep this platform open for communication in both ways so that grievances registered are resolved as per the aspirations of the aggrieved. He asked for increasing registrations on this portal so that households of the UT having a smart phone are heard at the appropriate level in the



administration.

Dulloo also underscored the need for making this portal a one stop solution for administration to reach out to public. He made out that the urgent messages with respect to essential supplies of power, water, ration etc, advisories regarding health and crops, updates regarding highways, scholarships or jobs should also be notified here for the ease and use of registered citizens.

He directed for giving super access to the concerned administrative heads, Deputy Commissioners and other HoDs of the Departments so that they are able to monitor the process of grievance resolution by having peek into the MIS reports and other AI based tools in order to ensure their quality resolution.

While giving insights

about this upgraded portal, Secretary Public Grievances Department, Aijaz Asad, informed the meeting that this portal has been integrated with AI tools to enhance quality of redressal substantially. He gave out that AI based prioritization of grievances based on the description provided by citizens is done to address those grievances related to essential supplies and urgent matters on priority basis.

He also revealed that AI calculates the time elapsed since the grievance was submitted and the days assigned for action. Besides, automatic system generated reminders are sent for timely action on these prioritised matters.

Regarding the registrations, it was divulged that 3,38,872 citizens have

registered over the 'JK Samadhan' portal till date with nearly 3,26,000 registrations in the last month itself.

It was added that announcements can be created, targeting all registered citizens in all departments or individual departments based upon the target audience.

A revamped analytical dashboard offers better insights and usability along with GIS based heat maps to know about the predominant areas affected by particular kind of the problem. The system even tracks and displays the average time taken by departments to resolve grievances, aiding in performance analysis for speedy resolution of each grievance registered over the JK Samadhan 2.0 grievance portal.

Weak food regulations, poor hygiene reasons behind many diseases: Experts

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The weak food regulations and poor hygiene practices can lead to significant public health risks, primarily through the spread of foodborne illnesses, the health experts said.

The health experts said that unsafe food containing harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical substances causes many diseases that can range from diarrhea to cancers.

Recently, a shocking video went viral on social media that ignited concerns over food safety in Kashmir. The footage, captured outside the revered Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar showed dead rodents floating in a tin of cooking oil used by a street vendor following which Police booked the vendor, but the incident has raised concerns about unhygienic food practices across the region.

Dr Muzaffar, a Food Safety expert said that foodborne illnesses can range from mild gastrointestinal discomfort to severe, life-threatening conditions.

"Vulnerable populations, such as infants, young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems, are particularly at risk. Common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain,



and fever," he said.

He said that stricter regulations and greater public awareness in this regard are very essential and personal hygiene such as washing hands before eating is vital, adding that the mutton that has good demand is being sold openly exposing to dust and bacteria leading to many health issues.

"Even we are witnessing that there is a good crowd at barbeque stalls where no care of hygiene is being taken and it can easily contribute to the spread of infections and transmit diseases."

Dr Mushtaq, a Physician said that street food vendors and even at hotels and restaurants, excessive salt, Monosodium Glutamate (MSG), banned food dyes like tatzarine and over use of cooking oil that increase the trans-fat levels thereby

raises the risks of heart disease.

He said that lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, fatty liver and high cholesterol are on rise and one of the reasons is the unhealthy diets.

Doctors said that regular and thorough handwashing with soap and water, especially before handling food, can prevent the transfer of pathogens.

They said that store perishable items at appropriate temperatures to inhibit bacterial growth. Refrigerate foods promptly and avoid leaving cooked foods at room temperature for extended periods.

"Use separate cutting boards and utensils for raw and cooked foods. Ensure that raw meats are stored separately from ready-to-eat items to prevent the spread of harmful bacteria," they said.

"Street vendors, hotels and restaurants should adopt comprehensive food safety protocols, such as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), to identify and manage potential hazards in the food production process," they added.

As per the official data, there are over 14,000 registered food establishments that operate in Kashmir under J&K Drug and Food Control Organization.

Meanwhile, the authorities at Drug and Food Control Organization maintained that they have fined over 42 lakhs for violations in 2024 for offences that range from adulteration to unsafe hygiene practices.

They said that they have been carrying inspections on regular basis besides that they are imparting training to food handlers to maintain hygiene—(KNO)

DC visits Lodgement Centres to enquire about Safety, wellbeing of families shifted from Badhaal Village



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today visited the lodgement centres established at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Rajouri and Nursing College to enquire about the safety and well being of the families shifted from Badhaal village.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the families and enquired about their well-being. He assessed any additional assistance required for their comfort. The families expressed gratitude for the arrangements made by the district administration, acknowledging the timely support provided to them in the hour of need.

DC Rajouri inspected all the arrangements and directed the designated nodal officers to ensure that all necessary facilities are provided at the lodgement centres. He reaffirmed that the safety and well-being of the relocated families are of foremost importance and that all departments are working in coordination to resolve the issue effectively.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner assured the families that once the ongoing investigation was complete, they will be shifted back to their village. He also expressed appreciation for the people's cooperation with the administration during this period.

In a significant move to support the affected families, DC Rajouri directed all departments to ensure the saturation of welfare schemes so that eligible persons can avail the benefits of government initiatives.

Accompanying the Deputy Commissioner during the visit were ADCC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, DSEO Sandeep Kumar, and other district and sectoral officers.

WDC-PMKSY 2.0 CAMPAIGN

Watershed Yatra reaches Udhampur District amid grand celebration

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: The Watershed Yatra under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 was accorded a grand welcome upon its arrival in District Udhampur.

To mark the occasion, the Integrated Watershed Management Programme Department organized an impressive event at Government High School Malhar.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania; Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh; DDC Member Puran Chand, Project Manager Tanveer-Ul-Majid Wani along with other district officers, former PRI members and a large number of local residents.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Udhampur East extended his gratitude to the organizers for conducting this impressive awareness program. He emphasized the urgent need for water conservation, soil preservation and the cleanliness of water bodies. He further highlighted that the primary objective of the campaign is to sensitize the masses about water management and rainwater harvesting. He further

stressed that Malhar should be developed as a model for water conservation in the district and urged participants to work in unison to protect and conserve water resources for future generations. He called for greater awareness about rainwater harvesting techniques, encouraging the community to harness and utilize rainwater effectively. Pathania underscored the importance of judicious water use, water hygiene and sustainable conservation practices. He urged the public to keep water bodies clean and take proactive measures to preserve them for future needs.

Earlier, the program commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by the lighting of the traditional lamp and Saraswati Vandana.

The Project Officer briefed participants on the aims and objectives of the Watershed Yatra, elaborating on its crucial role in mitigating climate change challenges and ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability. He also administered a watershed conservation pledge to all participants.

The celebrations featured a vibrant cultural program featuring nukkad natak, songs, dances presented by the students of different schools.

DC B'la chairs RAC meeting, approves 33 out of 34 cases



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Friday chaired a meeting of the Rent Assessment Committee (RAC) to review and finalize rental cases for government offices functioning in private buildings across the district.

During the meeting, a total of 34 cases were taken up for discussion, out of which 33 cases were approved after thorough scrutiny. One case was kept pending for further verification.

DC stressed the importance of fair and transparent assessment of rental agreements while ensuring that government offices

operate in spaces that meet functional requirements. He directed the concerned officials to rationalize rental expenditures, expedite pending cases, and ensure adherence to government norms in the assessment process.

Among others Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Chief Agriculture Officer and Senior officers from the Revenue Department, R&B and other concerned departments were present at the meeting. DC further instructed the officers to conduct periodic assessments to optimize resource utilization and maintain financial discipline.

DC G'bal reviews progress of Jal Shakti Deptt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Jal Shakti Department in the district here today.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for intensified efforts to achieve 100% household coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission, ensuring uninterrupted water supply to residents.

He directed officials to expedite the execution of ongoing projects and complete them within the stipulated timeframe.

A comprehensive review was taken of the works approved under various schemes, including UT CAPEX, District CAPEX, Languishing, and NABARD. Discussions also covered the status of water testing, monitoring mechanisms, and challenges in implementing Water Supply Schemes.

Earlier, Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti Department presented a detailed PowerPoint briefing on the physical and financial progress of these projects.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, AEEs, and other concerned officers.

Ranji Trophy 2024-25: Bowlers hold key as Jammu and Kashmir faces Kerala in quarterfinal

AGENCIES

While after the teams reached the MCA Stadium on Friday morning, Kerala coach Amay Khurasiya and captain Sachin Baby had a closer look at the pitch. A few moments later, Jammu and Kashmir captain Paras Dogra followed suit.

As both the captains had conversations with the ground staff, they seemed certain that with the surface offering a tinge of green, bowling first will be an advantage, and hence, winning the toss will be crucial.

While it will be a challenge for Kerala to quickly adapt to the conditions, Jammu and Kashmir comes into the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal buoying with confidence.

Having performed exceedingly well on red-soil pitches

and beaten Mumbai and Baroda on similar strips, the J&K camp would be hoping to make the most of another red-soil surface, and as seasoned campaigner Shubham Khajuria said, "By the looks of it, the surface should support our brand of cricket, and having played in such conditions early, we have a good chance..."

While J&K's bowling department will be spearheaded by quicks Umar Nazir Mir and Auqib Nabi, focus will be on off-spinner Sahil Lotra, who claimed a match-haul of 11 wickets in the last group league game against Baroda to guide the team to the quarterfinals.

However, middle-order has been an area of concern for J&K. While Khajuria has been among runs, the middle-order batters have not been con-

sistent, and even though Kanhaiya Wadhawan scored gritty fifty in the previous game, it will be important for others to step up and deliver.

Kerala, on the other hand, will be hoping for Rohan Kunnummal to convert the start, while the batting will revolve largely around captain Baby, Shoun Roger and Salman Nizar, who scored a 150 against Bihar last week. On a surface that could initially back the fast bowlers, the onus will be on MD Nidheesh and Basil NP, while the team would expect its seasoned all-rounder Jalaj Saxena to do the trick.

"We played in Lahli this year against Haryana where the conditions were similar, but we played well. And, those experiences will matter as we approach this game," captain Baby said.

